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Study Group on the History of the Presbyterian Church

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STUDY GROUP ON THE HISTORY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sessions

1. "Background of the Presbyterian Church in America." The beginning of the church in ancient Israel and its renewal at Pentecost and in the Reformation will initiate the study of the church. The focus of this session will be the birth of Reformed Theology at the hand of John Calvin and its mediation to the American Presbyterian Church by way of Scotland and John Knox. The structure of the Moravians and the Wesley movement in England will be briefly related, particularly in regard to the pattern of the Student Christian Societies in the early period.
2. "The Establishment of the Presbyterian Church in America." The colonist concern for the church and the cooperation of the European church in sending missionaries. The pioneers of the church in this land and their difficulties with the Established church. The emphasis of this lecture will be on the pattern of the church and its role in a local community with some of the difficulty that the church faced in expansion into new territories. The educational problems to provide an educated laity and clergy will be discussed leading up to the beginning of the civil war.
3. "The Formation of the Presbyterian Church U. S." This session will cover the issues and controversies that lead up to the split in the church at the beginning of the War including a study of the theological issues, the Gardner Springs Resolutions, the Old School, New School split of 1837, and the doctrine of the Spirituality of the Church. The study will include a brief presentation of the personalities of the 1861 Augusta Assembly and the directions of the Church as set out by that Assembly.
- ✓ 4. "The Role and the leadership of the Church in the Civil War." This session, led by Jim Silvers will be a study of the distortion of the leadership of the south during the war and its misguided leadership that attempted to bolster the status quo with theological arguments. The abortive puritanism and the sterile literalism ~~that~~ robbed the south of its only valid arguments and divorced the church from its moral responsibility that might have undercut the abolitionist argument. ✕
5. "The pattern of the local church during the time of reconstruction." The response of the church to the reconstruction period and the effect of the situation in modifying the pattern of the local church and its role in the community.
6. "The Presbyterian Church in the Twentieth Century". This session will cover briefly the development of the church during the first half of the twentieth century and then describe the challenges that face it today in its effective ministry to the inner city, on the college campuses, to its negro population, in growing suburbia and in industrial areas.

Session #1.	October 26, 1961	Rev. Clifford A. McKay, Jr.
2.	November 2, 1961	Dr. Margaret Moore
3.	November 9, 1961	Rev. Murphey C. Wilds
4.	November 16, 1961	Dr. James Silver
5.	November 30, 1961	Dr. Margaret Moore
6.	December 7, 1961	Rev. Mr. McKay, or Mr. Wilds

* This is not limiting but is discipline. I tried to formulate what you said so as to give the students an ideal of what to expect.